

Dkt. 57380-2 CCD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nicholas Charles PARSON et al.

Serial No.: 10/066,442

Group Art Unit 1742

Filed : February 1, 2002

Examiner: S. Ip

For : ALUMINIUM ALLOY AND EXTRUSION

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, THIAGARAJAN RAMANAN, declare that:

1. I am Director of Technical Services, Ingot Sales, for Alcan Primary Metal Group ("Alcan"), an entity that is related to Alcan International Limited, the assignee of the above-identified application.

2. Alcan, as a part of its business, makes and sells aluminum alloy billets to customers who are commercial producers of extruded articles, and who produce, from the billets, extruded articles that are etched and anodized and have a matte finish. My employment duties include involvement in matters relating to this part of Alcan's business, and working with such customers. As a result of these duties, I am familiar with the method of manufacture and composition of the billets so sold, and with the needs and problems of the aforesaid customers.

3. In the production of extruded and anodized articles having a matte finish, use of the standard alloy conventionally employed has caused problems because the alloy chemistry is not sufficiently controlled to achieve requisite uniformity in appearance. For example, if one side of a frame is produced from one batch of the standard alloy, and the second side of the frame is produced from another batch of the standard alloy, the two sides of the frame (after etching and anodizing, with a matte finish) are liable to be

unacceptably different in appearance owing principally to differences in chemistry between the two batches, e.g., the color of the frame is unacceptably nonuniform.

4. Alcan has developed, and produces and sells in the form of extrusion billets, matte alloys that overcome this problem by close control of alloy chemistry. Alcan's specific matte alloys are tailored to a customer's individual needs; for example, Alcan matte alloy 65020 is a general purpose matte alloy, Alcan matte alloy 66057 is a high speed matte alloy, and Alcan matte alloy 65091 is a bending matte alloy. All of these Alcan matte alloys are within the alloy family AA 6063; that is, their compositions are all within the definition of AA6063 type alloy. Alcan produces the billets of the alloys identified by all of these matte alloy designations by a method in which (i) a population of aluminum alloy billets is produced by performing more than one cast of metal, (ii) each cast converts a body of molten metal containing virgin metal and recycled scrap into a plurality of billets, and (iii) the composition of the molten metal body is such that every billet of the population has a composition within the following limits and ranges (in wt %): Fe <0.35; Si 0.20 - 0.6; Mn <0.10; Mg 0.25 - 0.9; Cu <0.015; Ti <0.10; Cr <0.10; Zn <0.03; balance Al of commercial purity. The advantageous batch-to-batch uniformity of color response thereby achieved is attributable, in particular, to the close control of Cu content (<0.015 wt% maximum) in the production of the billets.

5. Alcan customers who purchase Alcan matte alloy extrusion billets so produced, and use them to make matte-finish extruded articles, have attested to the beneficial results thereby achieved, as evidenced by EXHIBITS 1, 2, and 3 attached hereto, which are photocopies of letters that have been provided to Alcan by three such customers, at my request. All three of the customers state that they plan to continue to use the Alcan matte alloy and expand its usage in the future.

6. EXHIBIT 1 hereto attached is a photocopy of a letter dated November 15, 2006, from Patrick J. Lavelle, Quality Control, TRACO, 71 Progress Avenue, Cranberry Township, PA 16066, one of Alcan's aforesaid customers. I am the person referred to as "Ram Ramanan" in the letter. Mr. Lavelle states that TRACO has been using Alcan matte alloy 65020 (AA 6063) for the last 18 months in the production of extruded articles with matte finish, and that its performance has been very satisfactory, with "consistency and matt finish . . . far superior to other conventional 6063 type alloys we have been using."

7. EXHIBIT 2 hereto attached is a photocopy of a letter dated November 8, 2006, from Dave Sheaks, Plant Manager, AACOA Extrusions Inc., 2005 Mayflower Road, Niles, MI 49120, another of Alcan's aforesaid customers. Mr. Sheaks states that AACOA Extrusions Inc. has been using Alcan's matte alloy 66057 (AA 6063) for the last 5-6 years and that its performance has been very satisfactory, producing "consistent matt finish following etch and anodizing of the extrusions. The consistency and matt finish has been far superior to other conventional 6063 type alloys we have been using."

8. EXHIBIT 3 hereto attached is a photocopy of a letter dated November 14, 2006, from William E. Edwards, III, President and CEO, Cardinal Aluminum Co., 6910 Preston Highway, P.O. Box 19987, Louisville, KY, 40259-0987, another of Alcan's aforesaid customers. Mr. Edwards states that Cardinal Aluminum Co. has been using Alcan's matte alloy 65091 (AA 6063) for the last 10 months in the production of extruded articles with matte finish; that its performance has been very satisfactory; that "The alloy has produced consistent matte finish following etch and anodizing of the extrusions; and that "The consistency and matte finish has been far superior to other conventional 6063 type alloys we have been using."

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Thiagarajan Ramanan
THIAGARAJAN RAMANAN

Date: Dec 5 06

EXHIBIT 1



The Windows And Doors That Greet The World
www.traco.com

NOV 15 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that TRACO has been using Alcan matt alloy 65020(AA 6063) for the last 18 months and its performance has been very satisfactory. Prior to using this alloy, we were experiencing ongoing problems with streaking and lines in our Satin Finish Anodizing. Ram Ramanan suggested the use of the 65020 to help alleviate this issue, and we have been very happy with the results. Our streaking in the Satin Anodizing has been virtually eliminated, with no loss of production. The consistency and matt finish has been far superior to other conventional 6063 type alloys we have been using.

We plan to continue to use Alcan matt alloy 65020 and expand its usage in the future. We also plan to experiment with other Alcan alloys to improve our quality and production needs.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Lavelle,
Quality Control
TRACO

EXHIBIT 2

NOV 15 2006

To Whoever this may concern:

This is to confirm that AACOA Extrusions Inc., has been using Alcan matt alloy 66057 (AA 6063) for the last 5-6 years and its performance has been very satisfactory.

The alloy has produced consistent matt finish following etch and anodizing of the extrusions. The consistency and matt finish has been far superior to other conventional 6063 type alloys we have been using.

We plan to continue to use Alcan matt alloy 66057 and expand its usage in the foreseeable future.



Plant Manager
AACOA Extrusions Inc.
11/8/06

EXHIBIT 3



Cardinal Aluminum Co.

6910 Preston Hwy. • P.O. Box 19987
Louisville, KY 40259-0987

November 14, 2006

To Whoever this may concern:

This is to confirm that Cardinal Aluminum Co. has been using Alcan 6063 matte alloy 65091 (AA 6063 65091) for the last 10 months, and its performance has been very satisfactory.

The alloy has produced consistent matte finish following etch and anodizing of the extrusions. The consistency and matte finish has been far superior to other conventional 6063 type alloys we have been using.

We plan to continue to use Alcan matte alloy 65091 and expand its usage in the foreseeable future.

William. E. Edwards, III
President & CEO
Cardinal Aluminum Co.

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